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Contact: Jose Garcia
(806) 335-1421

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Steve Drillette to Lead the National Weather Service Forecast Office In Brownsville, Texas

Long time Amarillo warning coordination meteorologist Steve Drillette has been appointed meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service forecast office in Brownsville, Texas. Drillette replaces Nezette Rydell, who transferred to the forecast office in Denver.

"A meteorologist-in-charge is the front line officer carrying out the National Weather Service's highest calling of protecting lives while helping to mitigate the economic losses during hazardous events," said Bill Proenza, southern regional director of the U.S. National Weather Service. "Steve Drillette, with his experience, leadership and communication skills, will continue to assure the best weather services for the residents of south Texas."

In his new position, Drillette will be responsible for ensuring the residents, and the marine community, receive timely and accurate weather warnings, forecasts and climate information. His responsibilities also include maintaining close working relationships with partners in the emergency management community and the media, and providing severe weather awareness, preparedness and safety education to the public.

Drillette launched his National Weather Service career as a meteorologist intern at the National Weather Service forecast Office in Amarillo, Texas in 1993. He also served as a service hydrologist in Lubbock (1995-1998) and as a senior forecaster (1998-1999) in the Midland, Texas office. He then returned to Amarillo where he was promoted to the position of warning coordination meteorologist. Prior to joining the National Weather Service, Drillette also worked as a high school science and mathematics teacher and head basketball coach, and broadcast meteorologist.

In addition to his duties with the National Weather Service, Steve has served as a school board member for the past 7 years and is the current president of the Amarillo Highland Park School District. He has also served as a board member of Leadership Amarillo and Canyon and the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Drillette is a member of the American Meteorological Society, the National Weather Association, the Association of Contingency Planners, and the Texas Floodplain Management Association. He earned a bachelor's degree in meteorology from Texas A & M University in 1983.

"It's been an honor to serve the residents of the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles for the past 11 years," said Drillette. "I will miss the friendly Panhandle people and the many partnerships and friendships developed over the past decade."

The National Weather Service provides a network of 122 Weather Forecast Offices serving the nation with vital weather warnings, forecasts and climate services in air, land and sea.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

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